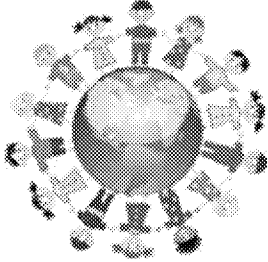


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**Subject:** OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AFFAIRS (ORBA) WEEKLY REPORT: December 18, 2019 – January 8, 2020



## OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AFFAIRS (ORBA) WEEKLY REPORT: December 18, 2019 – January 8, 2020

### ISSUES OF NOTE

#### **COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PROPOSAL TO RETURN TO AERIAL SPRAYING OF GLYPHOSATE:**

- The Colombian Ministries of Justice, Health, and Environment presented a draft decree for public consultation that establishes the control and mitigation mechanisms for the impact of glyphosate for use during aerial spraying of coca fields.
- The decree provides for an Environmental Management Plan to be developed prior to the spraying campaigns, as well as direct monitoring in the field.
- The publication of the draft decree for comment does not automatically imply a reactivation of aerial spraying activities.

#### **SSEA-AIR ONLINE AIR QUALITY PLANNING MODULE LAUNCHED:**

- On January 8<sup>th</sup>, the South & Southeast Asia-Air Improvements in the Region (SSEA-AIR) program – led by U.S. EPA, EPA Taiwan, and Battelle Institute air quality experts – launched the fourth and final online module designed to explain U.S. EPA's air quality action planning processes to government officials and experts in Asia. This process guides air quality planners and policymakers to achieve concrete actions that improve air quality and human health and reduce transboundary air pollution.
- Module 4 'Cost Management, Risk Management, and Quality Management' explains how U.S. EPA air quality experts conduct cost/benefit analysis, evaluate health risks, and employ quality management plans in their work.
- Modules 1-4 can be viewed in this [hyperlink](#). SSEA-AIR partners from 8 countries in Asia will take Module 4 to improve the Air Quality Action Plans that they developed at the SSEA-AIR Annual Meeting in Taiwan in 2019. To date, Module 1 'Introduction to Air Quality Action Planning' and Module 2 'Airshed Characterization and Description/Scope of Action' have been taken more than one hundred times by SSEA-AIR partners. The online modules were released with the SSEA-AIR Air Quality Action Plan Template.
- The SSEA-AIR action planning training package and additional technical materials will be made available to the public via the SSEA-AIR website, which will be launched by EPA Taiwan in the coming months.

- This is an activity of the International Environmental Partnership. [Simcox, Spenillo, Bonifacino, Tax, Harris, Guen-Murray]